

SENATE BILL NO. 41

INTRODUCED BY G. ROUSH

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING CERTIFICATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS OFFICERS WITHIN 1 YEAR OF DATE OF HIRE; REQUIRING CERTIFICATION STANDARDS TO INCLUDE A BASIC COURSE REQUIREMENT; PROVIDING EXEMPTIONS FROM CERTIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT OF NONCERTIFIED PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS OFFICERS; AMENDING SECTION 7-31-203, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 7-31-203, MCA, is amended to read:

"7-31-203. Certification of public safety communications officers -- suspension or revocation -- penalty -- notification requirements. (1) A local government ~~may~~ shall require that a person, unless exempt under subsection (3), appointed to receive requests for emergency services, as defined in 10-4-101, and to dispatch the appropriate emergency service units be certified by the board as a public safety communications officer.

(2) (a) The board shall determine the certification standards for public safety communications officers as provided in 7-31-202.

(b) The certification standards must contain a requirement that an applicant for certification attend and successfully complete a basic course for public safety communications officers conducted by the Montana law enforcement academy WITHIN 1 YEAR OF DATE OF HIRE.

(3) (a) A person certified by the board prior to July 1, 2001, and employed as a public safety communications officer as of July 1, 2001, is not subject to the requirement of subsection (2)(b).

(b) A person under permanent appointment as a public safety communications officer for 5 years or longer as of July 1, 2001, is not subject to the requirements of subsection (2).

~~(3)~~(4) A public safety communications officer who has successfully met the certification standards set by the board, or who is exempt from certain certification standards pursuant to subsection (3), and who has met the qualification requirements in 7-31-202, and who has completed a 6-month probationary

1 term and 1 year of employment must, upon application to the board, be issued a basic public safety
2 communications officer certificate.

3 (5) Failure by any person appointed as a public safety communications officer after July 1, 2001,
4 unless exempt under the provisions of subsection (3), to meet the minimum requirements in 7-31-202 or
5 to satisfy the certification requirements provided for in subsection (2) of this section is cause to terminate
6 that person's employment as a public safety communications officer.

7 ~~(4)~~(6) It is unlawful for a person whose certification as a public safety communications officer has
8 been suspended or revoked by the board to act as a public safety communications officer. A person
9 convicted of violating this subsection is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a term of imprisonment
10 not to exceed 6 months in the county jail or by a fine in an amount not to exceed \$500, or both.

11 ~~(5)~~(7) Within 10 days of the appointment, termination, resignation, or death of any public safety
12 communications officer, written notice must be given to the board by the employing authority."

13

14 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2001.

15

- END -